1. Title
Coronavirus and climate change – individual spillover in private public good provision

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3. Abstract
The need for private climate protection measures to achieve the 1.5-degree target of the Paris Agreements is not in question. But how does this insight change in the light of another global crisis, the corona pandemic? People are scared by infectious diseases because they bring about immediate and personal consequences. They cause a radical and rapid change in their lifestyles. But they also affect the immediate social environment, such as their family and friends. To protect themselves and the social environment, immediate action is taken and the recommended protective measures against the corona virus are implemented. Climate change, however, is more likely to be seen as a long-term and incremental threat. Not only the effects of global climate change still feel very impersonal to many, but also its causes. It is difficult to attribute them to the actions of a single individual. As a result, too many people still do not take immediate action to combat climate change. A further question therefore relates to the association between individual contributions to the public goods of health and climate protection.

This paper examines these questions based on panel data from two field experiments in Chile. In particular, first we empirically compare individual climate mitigation activities and altruistic behavior before and during the crisis in order to assess causal changes in climate action due to COVID-19. Next to intertemporal correlations for climate mitigation activities and altruistic behavior, we investigate the stability climate relevant preferences over time. We further consider differences in the causal effects depending on heterogeneous individual characteristics such as individual pro-environmental preferences, emotions, personality. Second, to assess the association between individual contributions to the public goods of health and climate protection and spillover effects in individual private public good provision, defined as a morally conscious behavior affecting the adoption of a different subsequent behavior, we investigate the extent to which a spillover in individual behavior from coronavirus protection measures to climate protection measures exists. In particular, the paper examines whether people who are willing to take protective measures against COVID-19 are also more likely to engage in climate protection activities to ensure the well-being of themselves, their friends and family. Further, we ask whether protective measures and attitudes related to COVID-19 are correlated with directed altruistic behavior.

4. Data description
The empirical analyses are based on data from an online panel survey at two major universities in Chile. We conducted the first two waves during the second semester in Chile. The 1st wave was conducted between the 16th and the 25th of September, the 2nd wave between the 14th and the 21th of October. The third wave was conducted between 26th of March and the 29th of April. We conducted the web-based survey in order to elicit information on eating behavior (via a stated preference discrete choice experiment (DCE)), effectiveness knowledge regarding the GHG effects of dietary choices (via the Climate Externalities Food Knowledge Test (CEFKT) (see Haefner and Schobin, 2019)), individual attitudes (i.e. environmental orientation, willingness to take risks, self-esteem, locus of control) and information on participants’ social network. The survey is answered during regular class time in the mandatory minimal course (i.e. all students of a given year and mayor have to take it) as well as at home. Overall, 1100 students took part in at least two of the three waves. Approximately 900 took part in all three. (The second wave displayed high levels of attrition due to a social protest movement)

5. JEL codes for the project
C93; D91; Q54

6. Key-words:
Panel data, experiment, climate change, COVID-19 crisis